

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/694,431

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

GOLDEN ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on July 6, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10/27/2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>06082004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on July 6, 2004.
2. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The watercraft lift assembly as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a lift assembly that is comprised of a support structure with at least two vertical pilings having outer sides and a proximal end, at least one transverse beam that is mounted between said vertical pilings for carrying a watercraft, a pulley assembly that is secured to said support structure and transverse beams, and includes a set of lifting cables for selectively lifting said watercraft into and out of a body of water, a motor/winch assembly that is secured to said assembly for activating said pulley assembly, and a cable tie-off device for securing a free end of each of said cables to one of said vertical pilings, where said cable tie-off device is further comprised of a jacket that is secured about an outer side of one of said vertical pilings, said jacket having first and second opposing brackets that engage the sides of said piling, at least one platform that extends from an outer surface of one of said brackets and has a slot, and a wedge that is configured to fit within said slot of said platform, and has a grooved periphery for maintaining a portion of said free cable end.
4. The prior art as disclosed by Sargent et al. (US 6,709,197, US 5,988,941 and US 5,915,877), Bulmann (US 6,695,533), Bishop et al. (US 6,174,06) and Wood, II (US 5,772,360) shows the use of various watercraft lift assemblies for lifting a watercraft

into and out of a waterway. Lucas et al. (US 5,553,360) and Rogers (US 3,905,711) disclose wedge socket assemblies for connecting cables to a support structure. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a watercraft lift assembly that is comprised of a support structure with at least two vertical pilings having outer sides and a proximal end, at least one transverse beam that is mounted between said vertical pilings for carrying a watercraft, a pulley assembly that is secured to said support structure and transverse beams, and includes a set of lifting cables for selectively lifting said watercraft into and out of a body of water, a motor/winch assembly that is secured to said assembly for activating said pulley assembly, and a cable tie-off device for securing a free end of each of said cables to one of said vertical pilings, where said cable tie-off device is further comprised of a jacket that is secured about an outer side of one of said vertical pilings, said jacket having first and second opposing brackets that engage the sides of said piling, at least one platform that extends from an outer surface of one of said brackets and has a slot, and a wedge that is configured to fit within said slot of said platform, and has a grooved periphery for maintaining a portion of said free cable end.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

lo

July 26, 2004

LARS A. OLSON  
PATENT EXAMINER

*Lars Olson*  
7/26/04